

Empower.

You don't have to leave your hometown to build your dreams.

My Community, My Vision gives students an opportunity to shape the future of their hometown. The community vision plan created in this program may help guide the development of:

- Job and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Affordable housing
- Agriculture, community gardens, parks, trails
- Community health
- Food security
- Youth involvement in local government
- Tourism

Encourage.

This program will provide students the freedom to:

- Voice their opinion and ideas on what your town needs to make it an even better place to live
- Take an active role in community development
- Enhance their leadership abilities
- Discover the process behind making and implementing community decisions
- Develop a long-term vision and plan for the improvement of the community
- Collaborate with officials and decision-makers
- Explore new programs and career options
- Return to their hometown after completing their education, with the promise of good job opportunities and enriched communities

Engage.

Student teams will have the opportunity to win \$500 for their chapters and engage in the creation of a vision plan for their community to grow and prosper. Winning teams will be assigned a Ball State University student mentor who will help them refine their ideas and engage with community leaders to discuss how those plans could become a reality. Teams will be required to devote time each week (an average of 1 to 2 hours, with occasional travel) toward the creation of the plan, as well as attend several all-group meetings throughout the course of the program year. Apply using the directions on the back of this page.

You have ideas, now you can make them a reality!

**MY COMMUNITY
MY VISION**

Apply.

Applying is easy! Submit an essay with the following information:

- Describe how your organization is active in your community
- Describe the strengths and challenges of your community
- Describe your vision for your community and how this vision impacts your decision on returning to your hometown
- Provide your community's population
- Include a letter of support from the Mayor, Town Council President, or highest elected official
- Include a description of a plan for participation on when meetings may be held with mentor (e.g. in-class, either in person or Skype, during club meeting times, or other)

Requirements.

Up to five (5) teams will be chosen based on their ability to meet the following requirements and their overall application and vision:

- Ability to devote up to 1-2 hours per week, as needed, from August-April 2015. Final plans will be presented to the Lieutenant Governor in April. Plans for involvement must be included in the application and should detail whether students will work on this initiative during a class, study hall, group meeting, or other time. Support letters from principals and/or superintendents are encouraged.
- Comprehensive vision that extends beyond school in hopes of helping neighbors and organizations promote food security, vibrant neighborhoods, healthy and active living, or other positive influences
- Dedicated team and supervisor: a minimum of 5 students who will participate in the meetings should be included in the essay, as well as a supervisor with contact information
- Further consideration may be given to communities that are in need of new or updated plans, show declining populations, or other need-based indicators.

Submission deadline: May 31, 2015

Winners will be contacted before August 1 and should plan on a mid-August program start coinciding with the Ball State academic calendar.

Questions and applications can be submitted using mcmv@ihcda.in.gov



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Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

